

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00  
CPR-01 SY-05 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EURE-00 /047 W  
-----031740Z 112519 /50

O 031720Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3348

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC

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FOR: DEPARTMENT PLEASE ALSO PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
HODDING CARTER; LONDON ALSO FOR A/COUNS AND WHITE HOUSE  
ADVANCE TEAM; USIA FOR IEU/KORDEK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC

SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT -- PRESS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY  
VANCE

REF: (A) USNATO 2445; (B) STATE 098664

1. SINCE A PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE APPEARS RULED  
OUT (REFTEL B) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NATO SUMMIT  
SESSION MAY 10, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY  
VANCE HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MINISTERIAL  
SESSION ON MAY 11.

2. WE AT USNATO BELIEVE SUCH A MEETING WITH THE PRESS IS  
IMPORTANT TO PLACE U.S. VIEWS ON THE RECORD AT HIGHEST  
POSSIBLE LEVEL. FIRST, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE QUESTIONS  
ABOUT THE U.S. VIEWS OF THE MAY 10 SUMMIT SESSION. NEXT  
TO THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF THE SECRETARY IS SEEN IN EUROPE  
TO BE THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE US VOICE TO INTERPRET THE  
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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND US REACTIONS TO OTHER INTER-  
VENTIONS IN THE MINISTERIAL SESSION MAY 11. FURTHERMORE,  
AS STATED IN REF A, DURING AND AFTER BOTH DAYS OF THE  
NATO MEETING OFFICIALS OF ALL ALLIED COUNTRIES WILL BRIEF  
AT VARIOUS LEVELS, AND WE ALSO EXPECT MEETINGS BETWEEN  
MOST OF THE OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS OR THEIR FOREIGN  
MINISTERS AND THE PRESS.

3. WE BELIEVE THE SECRETARY SHOULD MEET THE PRESS MAY 11, EVEN IF THE PRESIDENT'S MAY 10 STATEMENT TO THE NAC IS RELEASED TO THE PRESS AND AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL BRIEFES OR BACKGROUNDS THE PRESS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE IN THE MAY 10 SESSION.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT A GOOD TIME FOR THE SECRETARY TO MEET THE PRESS WOULD BE MID-AFTERNOON OF MAY 11. BY THAT TIME SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS WILL MOST LIKELY HAVE HELD HIS TRADITIONAL END-OF-MINISTERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HE IS NOW SCHEDULING FOR APPROXIMATELY 1300. THIS SEQUENCE WOULD OFFER THE SECRETARY THE ADVANTAGE OF BATTLING CLEAN-UP AND ALSO EASILY MAKING THE EVENING EUROPEAN TELEVISION AND WRITING PRESS DEADLINES AS WELL AS THOSE IN THE U.S.

5. THE BANQUETING HALL OFFERS AN EXCELLENT SITE, AND CONTAINS ALL THE TECHNICAL FACILITIES NECESSARY. IT CAN ACCOMMODATE 500 PEOPLE.

6. I REALIZE MEETING WITH PRESS WOULD IMPOSE EXTRA BURDEN ON SECRETARY OF STATE'S ALREADY CROWDED SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, GIVEN IMPORTANCE WE HAVE ASCRIBED TO NATO AND TO SUMMIT, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTH THE EXTRA EFFORT. FAILURE TO GIVE RESULTS ATTENTION AT SECRETARIAL LEVEL WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY OUR ALLIES AND THEIR PUBLIC OPINION.  
BENNETT

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NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE (B) APPEARS TO BE INCORRECT.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009